YANK

THE ARMY WEEKLY

VE ISSUE

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FADE-OUT

1 For most of us it began on October 29, 1940, when Secretary Stimson pulled out the first number.

2 We repeated the oath before the flag and wondered if we'd be "back in a year, little darling."

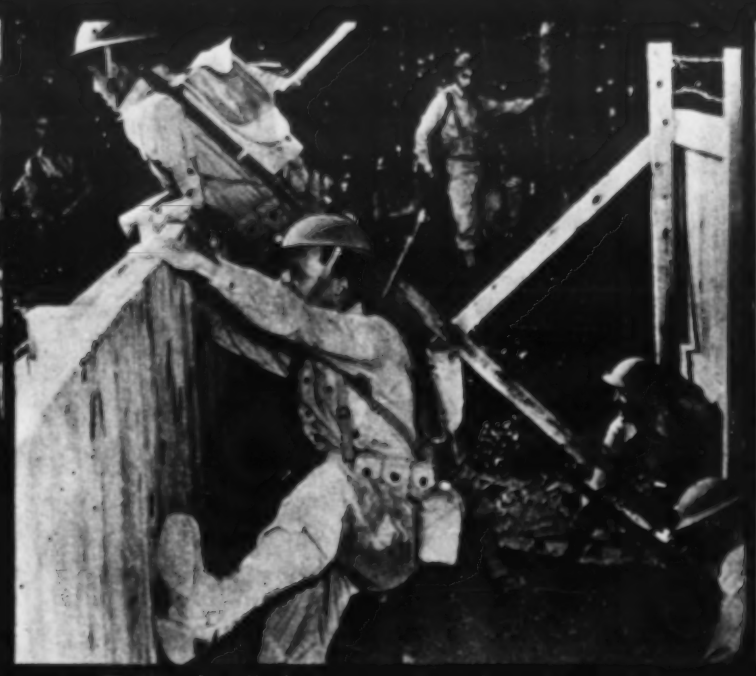
3 Trains pulled in at Southern camps, and we marched off lugging barracks bags and suitcases.

The GI's War in Europe

A Picture Story of the American Soldier's Fight Against Germany and Italy from Induction to Victory.

7 And GIs were being sent to Iceland. Traveling on the North Atlantic was often plenty rough.

4 "All present and accounted for." We stood in line, drilled, made packs and stood in line.



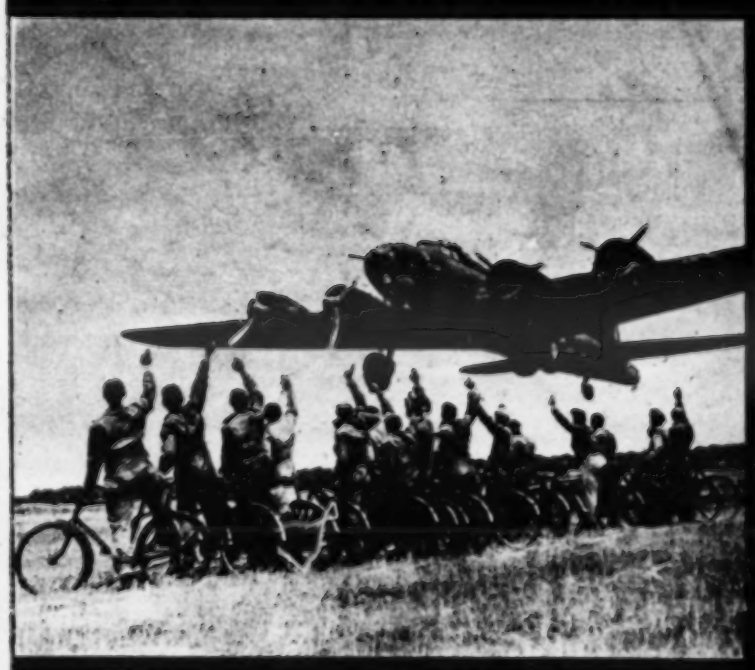
5 We hurdled barriers in obstacle courses with those basin helmets sliding around on our heads.

6 Some left the States early. U. S. forces were sent to build bases in Greenland in April 1941.

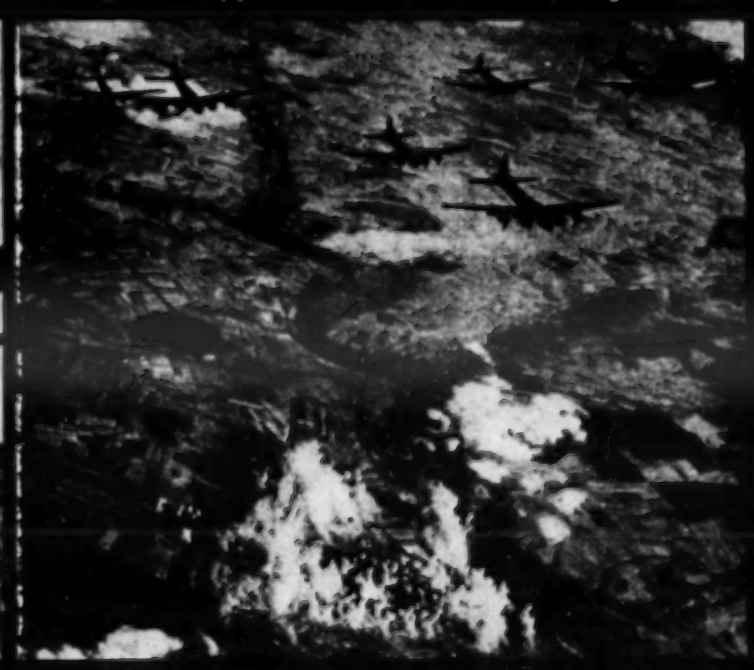
8 A GI main street in Iceland, lined with Nissen huts. It seemed pretty bleak and far from home.

9 We landed in Northern Ireland in January 1942. Yanks paraded in fresh blouses with gas masks.

10 We were starting to assemble men and supplies in Britain GIs saw English pubs for the first time.

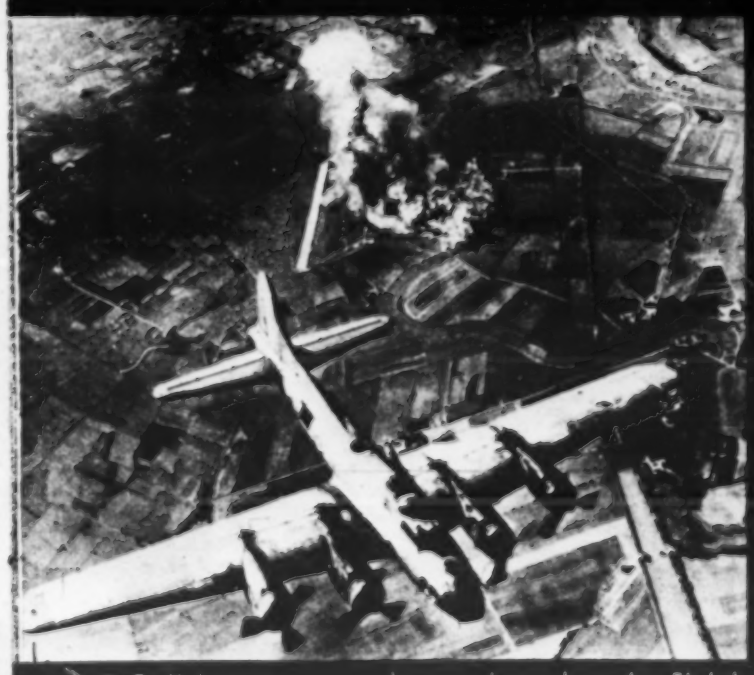


11 More and more American planes were flying from English fields as ground crews waved them off.



12 Eighth Air Force Forts first raided Europe in July 1942. These B-17s were bombing in France.

13 B-17 crews were tired after getting back but they usually had plenty of things to talk about.



14 Krauts were caught napping when the Eighth Air Force first bombed as far as East Prussia.

15 Rangers, back from the Dieppe raid, August 1, 1942, were first to fight German ground troops.

16 The ATC was using Ascension Island (halfway to Africa) as a base but kept it secret until 1943

CONTINUED

17 The war against fascism brought us to Egypt in 1942, where some of us did a little sightseeing.

18 And the war brought us to Iran, where we kept the lend-lease goods moving toward Russia.

19 On November 7, 1942, bad day for the Axis, we landed on beaches of French North Africa.

20 Most GIs who occupied Oran saw a liberated city for the first time and found they liked it.

21 In Tunisia the Germans fought or tried, like this one, to get away. Either way they lost.

22 We fought over the desert and dry hills and watched everything the enemy was doing.

25 When we entered Tunis it was a happy day for Frenchmen, British and Americans alike.

26 When the Tunisian campaign ended in May 1942, the war was over for a lot of German and Italian prisoners. The Allies had captured 291,000 Axis soldiers, killed 30,000 and wounded 27,000.

28 MPs were about the only GIs who saw the famous Casbah in Algiers. It was out of bounds.

29 Next step was Sicily. In planes, or on landing boats, we wondered how tough it would be.

30 We waded ashore on July 9, 1943, sloshing through the surf and cussing at the mules.

23 Infantry and armor took one Tunisian town after another as the Nazi armies retreated.

24 As always, digging a foxhole, like this one by the side of the road, was good insurance.

27 GIs of the Signal Corps worked overtime in North Africa setting up communications.

31 The kids in Sicily were almost as good at observation as we were, being curious—like kids.

32 We fought snipers in the Sicilian towns, with the sun shining through the smoke and dust.

33 The medics did a job in Sicily, as they have done in all other combat areas in this war.

CONTINUED

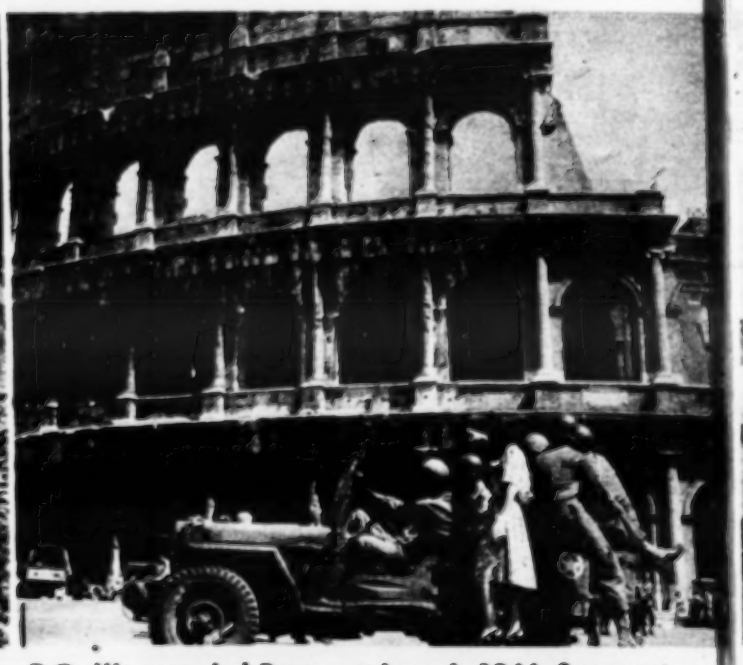
34 We invaded Italy in September 1943. The Italians quit, but Nazi bombers still unloaded on us.

35 When we got into Italy we had to cross over one long range of mountains after another.

36 And most GIs who took a hill went on to take the next one, but some of them didn't.

40 The Fifteenth Air Force was taking off from Italy. Some ground-crew GIs were fixing up quarters.

41 All Italy and all Allied soldiers who fought there remember Cassino on the road to Rome.



42 We occupied Rome on June 4, 1944. Some got a pretty guide to show them the Colosseum.

46 We were getting set for France in a big way, maneuvering in strength over the English moors.

47 And finally we were jammed up against the loading docks, ready for sailing orders.

50 They made it but had to take a breather and were in no mood to smile at the camera.

37 The Army nurses were there when we made the Anzio-Nettuno beachhead. We needed them.

38 And we needed artillery. You're a bit more confident with a "Long Tom" backing you up.

39 Another part of war in Italy was the girls who came over to put on a show, rain or shine.

43 Although chasing the enemy, there was time to pause for a little GI side show on the way.

44 As the war went on in Italy you ran across quite a few nice Wacs working in headquarters.

45 Before Rome fell we were still in England, training very hard, getting ready for D-Day.

48 D-Day came, on June 6, 1944. Some lost time in the water before reaching France.

49 It seemed quite a way from the boats to shore. The invaders carried a lot of equipment.

51 We got farther inland and met some of the people. It was easy to get a laugh.

CONTINUED

The GI's War in Europe

52 We met up with French civilians who were very nice about quenching a soldier's thirst.

53 The Ninth Air Force needed air fields in France. Engineers were there to lay them out.

54 The break-through at St. Lo began in July, and then we broke out into the French plains.

55 The Krauts retreated, leaving a lot of their baggage twisted and burning on the roads.

56 In Italy we were moving to the shore to board landing craft and invade southern France.

57 We hit southern France on August 15 and met some Maquis who were veteran Nazi-fighters.

58 Ordnancemen had plenty to do keeping guns in repair, even salvaging enemy weapons.

59 We plowed into Brittany and attacked the port of Brest, fighting through the streets.

60 The liberation of Paris came on August 25, and people turned out to cheer and sing.

62 We went through the old Maginot Line, which didn't look so tough when you got close.

63 For many GIs entering Belgium it was a nice thing to be appreciated by the right people.

64 We got through Huertgen Forest in November, but it was a slow, cruel push for the Infantry.

61 We couldn't all stay and celebrate in Paris but we put on a good show on the way.

65 Many GIs found that Army nurses were the only good part of lying wounded in a hospital.

66 Aachen, which was surrendered on October 20, was the first big German city we fought for.

67 A break was a break anyway you looked at it, but having some mail made it even better.

CONTINUED

The G!'s War in Europe

68 The more casualties the more work for the medics, who were hit themselves often enough

69 We got through Belgium but we left thousands behind who will never leave Belgian soil

70 When winter hit the Western Front even hot chow didn't keep us warm for very long

73 The winter reached its height when we got into Germany. GIs worked in howling blizzards

74 The Germans under Von Rundstedt started their big counterattack in the Ardennes December 16

75 GIs will long remember the part the defenders of Bastogne played in stopping Von Rundstedt

77 Negro artillerymen helped blast what was left of the Siegfried Line as we went on.

78 The line of prisoners grew as we went from the Roer to the Rhine, and they got less cocky.

79 Some weren't going so fast that they couldn't stop to dance with a few Red Cross girls.

81 Going into Germany we saw refugees all the way, lugging their families and their goods.

82 Cologne was captured on March 7, 1945. And with that the end in Germany was not far off.

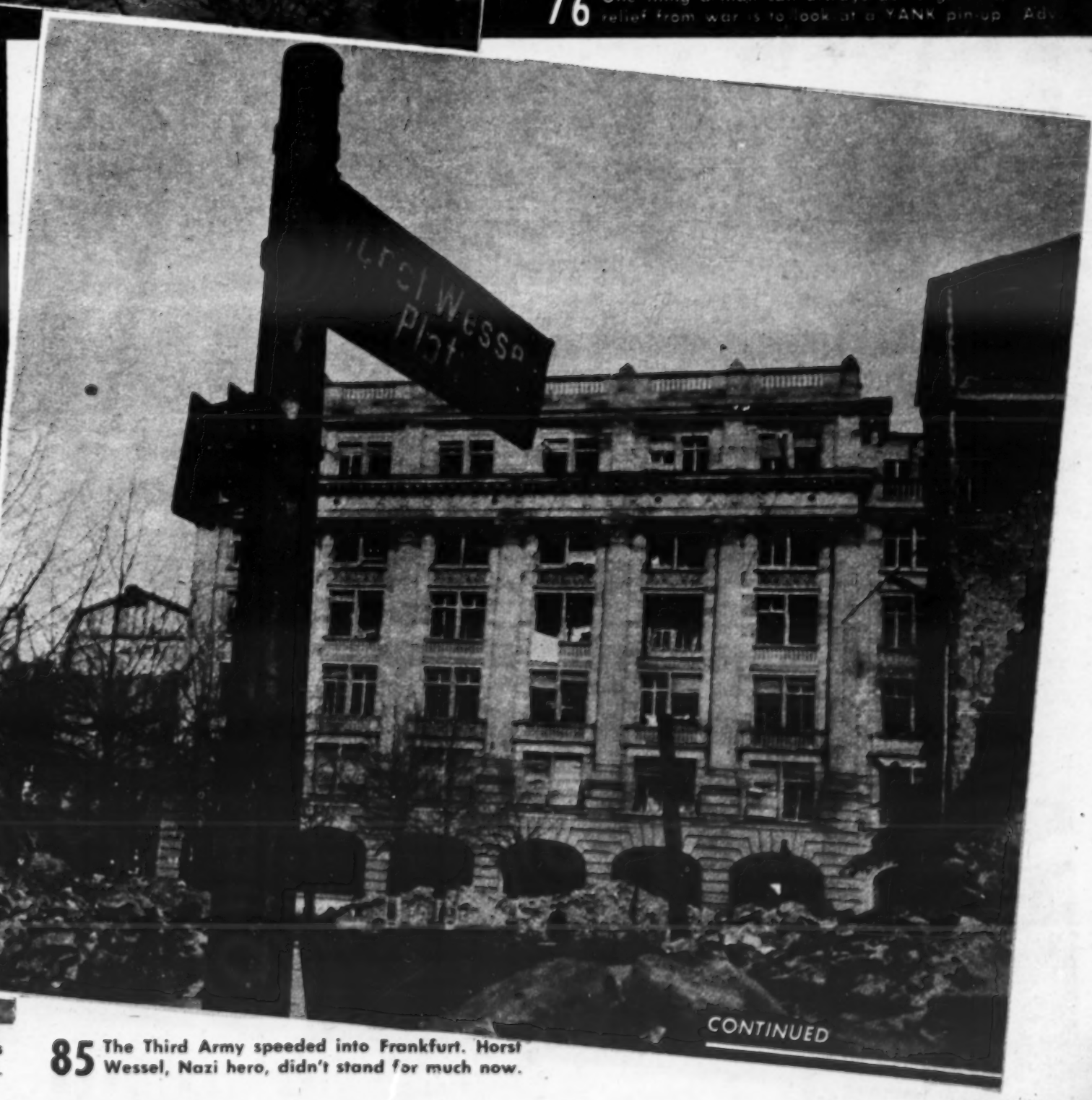
83 Also on March 7, First Army GIs found the Remagen bridge intact and crossed the Rhine.

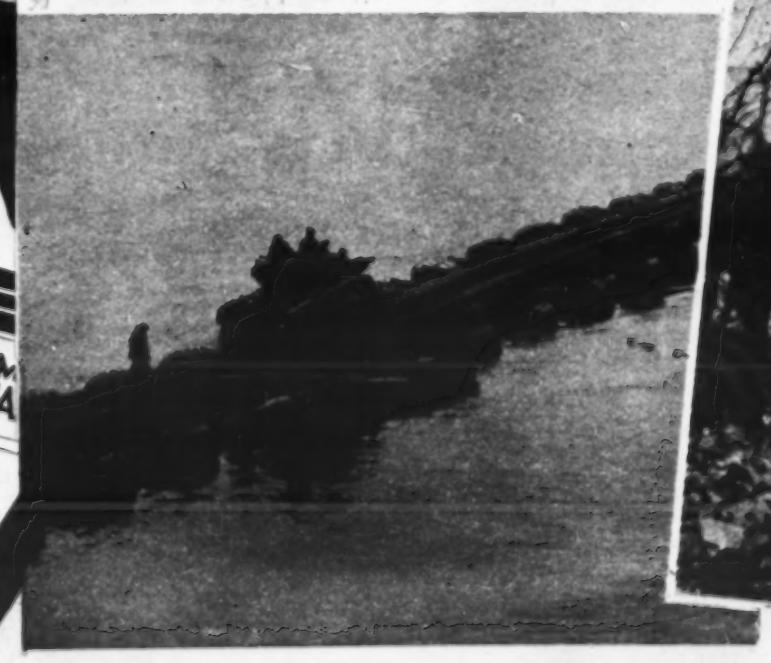
71 The Infantry filed through the snow-covered Forest of the Ardennes toward the front.

72 The spotlight was on winter in western Europe but there were snow and cold for GIs in Italy too

76 One thing a man can always do to get a welcome relief from war is to look at a YANK pin-up Adv

80 We took more German cities with empty streets and houses with gaping windows.





84 Then we began to get ponton bridges across the river and the last big offensives were on.

85 The Third Army speeded into Frankfurt. Horst Wessel, Nazi hero, didn't stand for much now.

CONTINUED

The GI's War in Europe

86 Those of us who saw the prison and concentration camps in Germany were no longer suspicious about atrocities. The savagery was there to see.

87 The armies of the Third Reich were folding up, by the thousands and hundred thousands. Taking on more prisoners got to be a nuisance.

90 In Italy we were launching an offensive which ended in Mussolini's execution by the Partisans and a mass surrender by the Germans on May 1.

91 This is where Allied unity became even more real, when GIs of the American and Russian armies met near Torgau, in Germany, on April 25.

92 We rolled into Munich, birthplace of the Nazi party, on April 29, and took over Hitler's headquarters in the Brown House, with some of his comforts.

93 Von Rundstedt, captured by two GIs on May 1, said we had fought as good a war as the Germans had in 1940. He was admitting defeat.

88 On April 13 our flags flew at half staff in Germany. We didn't want to believe the President was dead; but victory does not wait on mourning.

89 We moved into Nuremberg, appropriately enough, on Hitler's birthday, April 20. In the Nazi stadium GIs were heiling in the Fuehrer's face.

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90 Roosevelt Blvd. in Aachen, first German city to fall to the Allies, was named for the President by the Army.

THE two weeks that ended with the Germans' signing an official surrender at 2041 hours, U. S. Eastern War Time, Sunday, May 6, 1945, were crammed with more important happenings than any other equal period of the war. From the fall of Cologne and the massing of Russian assault forces on the east bank of the Oder, the fact of final German defeat had been obvious. The climax came in these last two big weeks and when it came news flash tumbled upon news flash, rumor upon rumor, surrender upon surrender, so quickly that the average GI or civilian could hardly grasp one Allied triumph before he was caught up by the impact of the next.

These two weeks began with the Russian battle for possession of Berlin in full swing. Below Berlin, near Torgau on the Elbe, tankmen of the U. S. First Army were beginning to pick up snatches of Russian combat directions on their mobile radios. Marshal Ivan Konev's forces were moving to meet them. All along the Western Front an Allied nutcracker was breaking up the vaunted "hard core" of German defense. U. S. Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's Ninth Army was pushing east from Magdeburg, Gen. George S. Patton's tankmen were cowboying toward the Czech border, the First Canadian Army was at Emden, the First French Army was past Stuttgart, Lt. Gen. Alexander Patch's Seventh U. S. Army was south of the Danube near Lauringen, Gen. Jacob L. Devers' Sixth Army Group threatened Bavaria, British Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's Twenty-first Army Group was bringing complete freedom to the Netherlands and Denmark. From their side the Russians continued the same inexorable squeeze that had forced the Germans back from their high tide of Eastern aggression before Leningrad and Stalingrad. Marshal Gregory Zhukov's First White Russians were in Berlin. Konev was almost to the Elbe River. Gen. Fedeor Tolbukhin's Third Ukrainian Army cut into the Nazi redoubt. Gen. Rodion Malinovsky had pushed through Vienna and was following the Danube deeper into Austria. In Italy the long, dull stalemate of Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's polyglot armies had been broken. The U. S. 10th Mountain Infantry Division had spearheaded a break-through and the war in Italy had a moving front again—a moving front of Fifth Army veterans, including American Negro troops and Japanese-Americans and Brazilian Allies and free Italian troops, and British and Indian GIs of the famous Eighth, which had swept across Africa in 1943—all of them aided by the sabotage and behind-the-lines action of Italian partisans in the North and by the sharp, constant pressure against the German eastern flank from Marshal Tito's Yugoslavs. Hitler's Germany was going down in flames.

Moving forward with the U. S. Ninth Army into the confusion of a dying Reich, YANK staff correspondent Sgt. Allan Ecker observed the symptoms of collapse:

A FERRYBOAT, a big barge propelled by the hand-over-hand cable system, was loaded to the gills with about 60 displaced persons, German nationals and American GIs crossing west over the Elbe from a strictly unofficial American 35th Division bridgehead on the other side of the river. A patrol of K Company of the 137th Infantry under Lt. Howard Pierson of Huntington, Oreg., and S/Sgt. Denzil Lindbom of Peoria, Ill., had made a crossing to the eastern bank for a brief reconnoitering, but they'd run into a peculiar situation.

Everybody and his uncle in the little town of Ferchland insisted on going back with them. So the boys set up a ferryboat. One of the passengers when we went back was a German woman with four kids, the youngest 5 months old, all of them wailing to beat the band. We asked where she was coming from and where she was heading, and her answer seemed to sum up the whole plight of the German nation crushed between two fronts: "We left Brandenburg two days ago," she said, "because the Russian bombs and shells leveled our home there. Where are we going? To a big city where we have relatives.

"Perhaps you've been there? It's called Aachen."

Among the prize catches of the 102d Division was an attractive and much-married female Gestapo agent whose current and fourth husband is an *SS* major general. Interrogated at her hide-away house in the woods by German-born Edward Hoffer of New York City, the *frau* was much embarrassed by one question. She couldn't remember the first name of her first husband with whom she had lived for 7 years until 1929.

As Russian and American forces converged on the Western Front, a rumor started back among the 8th Armored Division men around Braunschweig that a junction had already been effected. "Just take a look at those two guys if you don't believe it," GIs advised cynics.

"Those two guys" were honest-to-God Red Army first lieutenants, one of them an ex-member of the Crimea General Staff. They were, to be sure, a trifle out of uniform: GI ODs and field jackets, German leather boots and Lugers, Russian shoulder insignia, and GI helmets with big red stars and the words "Soviet Union" painted on them.

Picked out of a horde of Russian slave laborers and war prisoners wandering along the highways and byways of Germany, the two officers had been given razors, baths and equipment by the 8th Armored's 88th Cavalry Recon Squadron. Thus transformed, they were ready—with the aid of Russian-speaking Pfc. Frank Ilchuk of New York City—to organize some of the thousands of their countrymen into orderly communities in each village. Many starving Russians, newly liberated, have taken to pillaging and cluttering up important roadways. The use of Red Army officers to control them and the requisitioning of rations from local German *burgomeisters* was put into effect to take the load off American combat units until military government authorities arrive in sufficient numbers to take over.

IN the news, as the first of the two last weeks wore on, you heard less about Adolf Hitler and more about Heinrich Himmler, his Gestapo chief. There were increasing rumors of Hitler's disappearance or his death or his madness and with them increasing rumors of a Himmler bid for peace. The peace rumors reached a climax in a false Armistice announcement in the U. S. on April 28. Newspaper headlines screamed "GERMANY QUITS!" and premature celebrations were set off in some communities. They didn't last long in the face of a sharp denial from Supreme Allied Headquarters and the White House.

The fact behind the false armistice—Himmler's attempt to surrender to the U. S. and Great Britain and leave Russia holding the bag—were true. But the chief fact behind the Himmler trial balloon was fear, German fear before an assault the Germans now knew they could not withstand.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army was an arrow aimed at Hitler's Berchtesgaden mountain hide-away. U. S. troops took Italy's chief naval base at La Spezia. Genoa fell. Aged ex-Vichy chief, Marshal Petain, came through Switzerland to give himself up for trial in liberated France. The Germans in Italy were shoved back into the Alps and their lines of possible retreat were all but cut off. Great Britain and the U. S. refused to be parties to any peace overtures which did not include their Russian ally. At Torgau, advance groups of the First Army's 69th Division made contact with the 58th Guards Division of Konev's First Ukrainian Army.

Sgt. Ed Cunningham, YANK staff correspondent, was with the First Army to report the meeting:

A 28-MAN, six-jeep patrol of 69th Division Yanks under the command of 1st Lt. Albert Kotzebue of Houston, Tex., and his platoon sergeant, T/Sgt. Frederick Johnston of Bradford, Pa., and a Russian cavalry patrol made the first link-up between the Eastern and Western Fronts. The meeting took place on a hill outside the village of Zauwitz just before 1330 hours on April 25.

The jeeps roared up the hill smack into the middle of a group of hard-riding Cossacks who were patrolling the area in search of stray pockets of German resistance. Both units recognized each other so there was none of the confusion that attended some later Russki-Yank meetings.

The Cossacks detailed a Russian civilian to guide Lt. Kotzebue and his men to where the CG of the Russian division was waiting to greet them on the other side of the hill. Then they galloped off in search of more Germans.

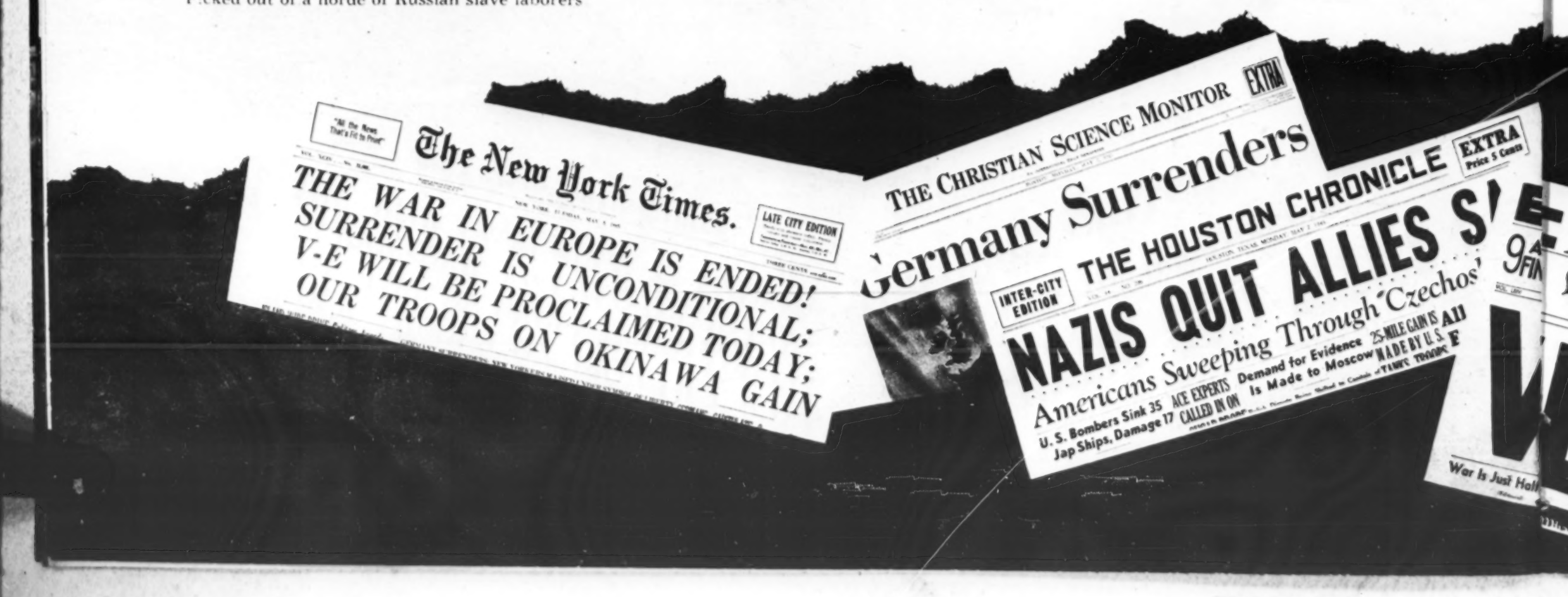
The American patrol crossed the Elbe in jeeps ferried on a platform raft and fell headlong into a lively Russian celebration.

A Russian major who spoke a few words of English set the tone of the celebration with a toast. "Today," he said, "we have the most happy day of our lives. The years 1941 and 1942 were a most difficult time. Germany was at Stalingrad. It was the most difficult time of our lives. At that time we do not think of our lives; we think of our country.

"Just now, our great friends and we have met one another and it is the end of our enemy. Long live your great leader. Long live our great leader. Long live our great countries."

Maj. Fred Craig of Friendship, Tenn., and 2nd Lt. Thomas R. Howard of Mississippi, were in command of the second patrol to meet the Russians. They made contact at 1545 April 25 at Clanzchwitz with a column of Russian cavalry.

The Russians galloped across an open field to meet them, throwing their helmets in the air. Maj. Craig was ferried across the river and taken back to the Russian corps headquarters to meet the lieutenant general commanding. The general asked him if he were the highest Amer-


"All the News That's Fit to Print"
The New York Times.
LATE CITY EDITION
THE WAR IN EUROPE IS ENDED!
SURRENDER IS UNCONDITIONAL;
V-E WILL BE PROCLAIMED TODAY;
OUR TROOPS ON OKINAWA GAIN
THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
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Americans Sweeping Through Czechos
U. S. Bombers Sink 35 Jap Ships, Damage 17
ACE EXPERTS CALLED IN ON
Demand for Evidence Is Made to Moscow
25-MILE GAIN IS MADE BY U. S.
War Is Just Hal

ican officer available to greet him and Maj. Craig explained that his was only a patrol, not the official greeting party.

The major and his men had two meals with the Russians, one at 1900 and one at 0930 the next morning. Once again there were toasts and mutual greetings. The Russians had several cameramen and correspondents on hand to record the meeting and seemed sorry we didn't have any of our own. The general told the major he was sending a message direct to Stalin to inform him of the meeting. The Russians and Yanks fired each other's weapons and criticized them. Red Army men found our M1 too heavy for their taste but liked our carbine and .30-caliber machine guns.

During the night the radio operators at the major's CP on the west bank of the Elbe, relieved each other so they could cross and enjoy the Russian party. A Cossack column stopped by the CP and put on a two-hour serenade of Russian songs with harp, mouth organ and accordion accompaniment.

In the morning a Russian barber shaved the Yanks in bed. It was quite a meeting.

The third U. S. patrol to contact the Russians had a more confusing time of it. It was led by 2nd Lt. William D. Robertson, 1st Battalion, 273d Regiment, 69th Division, who had studied Japanese as an ASTP man, a factor which was as useful as an extra toenail in establishing friendly relations.

Robertson and his three-man patrol reached the town of Torgau on the banks of the Elbe after a 27-mile jeep ride through the no-man's-land then separating our forces. He spotted Red Army men on the opposite bank and shouted to them: "Amerikanski! Come over. Friends! Tovarisch." But the Russians weren't having any, since a German patrol had tried to get next to them by pretending to be Americans the day before.

Robertson and his three-man GI patrol weren't daunted and proceeded to manufacture an American flag from cloth and red, white and blue paint procured at a Torgau store. They waved their flag at the Russians from the tower of a castle. The Russians fired two colored flares, the agreed link-up signal. But Robertson had no flares to fire back.

The Russians were now thoroughly convinced that something phoney was afoot. They opened up with an antitank gun and small-arms fire on the castle and scored two direct hits.

An American naval lieutenant, a newly-freed PW, came up about that time. He spoke Russian and so did a Russian liberated slave worker who was nearby. Between the two of them, they managed to shout the news across the Elbe that the patrol was really American and wanted to meet the Russians.

THEN and then only did the Russians relent and allow Robertson and his men to cross to their bank. Once across, the meeting followed the pattern already set. There was vodka, and backslapping; there were toasts and mutual congratulations. This third meeting by Lt. Robertson's patrol was the one credited as the first contact in early news dispatches.

The climactic meeting, of course, was when Maj. Gen. Emil E. Reinhardt of Decatur, Ga., CG of the 69th, made his official visit to Lt. Gen. Rosakov, CG of the 58th Guards Division. The major general and three staff officers crossed the Elbe and returned in a slim German racing boat, so delicately balanced that all the officers had to sit at attention in order not to tip themselves over into the drink. The shell had been designed for sport, not transportation, but it was the only craft available at the section of the Elbe where Gen. Reinhardt crossed and where the Germans had blown the only two bridges.

Sgt. Andrew Marriack of Hudson, N. Y., served as interpreter for a Russian captain who told some of the Americans gathered by the river how his men had taken Torgau. Marriack had learned his Russian as an ASTP student at City College in New York.

"They took this town two days ago," he translated. "It wasn't much of a fight, but the captain got sore because the Germans ambushed one of his patrols. He says a gang of Krauts held up a white flag and when his patrol came over to take them prisoner, they threw down the flag and opened fire, killing two of his men. He says the Germans don't fight like human beings; they're treacherous and they destroy towns and civilian populations without any cause. He says the Russians will stay in Germany until the Germans are capable of respecting the rights of other people. He doesn't. . . "

The roar of an exploding grenade, which landed in the river several yards away from the party, interrupted. Some of the Americans who had just arrived hit the ground. Marriack, who didn't seem disturbed, said, "That's nothing to worry about. Just one of the Russian soldiers showing one of our guys how their grenades work. They always fire their weapons when you ask about them; they figure a demonstration is the best answer they can give."

OUTSIDE of the actual meetings, the unoccupied area which separated the Russian forces on the Elbe from the American forces on the Mulde River was the most interesting and the screwiest part of the link-up picture. Hundreds of German soldiers streamed along the roads leading to the American lines, unguarded and all but forgotten in the excitement of the Russki-Yank junction. They had been disarmed by advance American patrols and ordered to make their own way to our PW cages because we didn't have enough GIs around at the time to escort them. Most of them seemed to be happy to be out of the fighting.

Unlike the reception we got in the dash from the Rhine to the Mulde, where the civilians ac-

Russian and American soldiers had a celebration after they met near the town of Torgau, Germany, April 25

The bodies of Benito Mussolini, the "sawdust Caesar" and his Clara Petacci lie in a square in Milan after their execution by partisans.

German officers meet Montforces in Netherlands, north-

cepted our entry in sullen silence, the people between the Mulde and the Elbe welcomed us like returning heroes. They stood on the curbs of no-man's-land towns, waving and laughing.

None of their waves and smiles were returned. The $65 question—the fraternization fine—had nothing to do with the Americans' passive reaction to the sudden German welcome. The Yanks could see through the waving and the smiles. It wasn't that the Germans hated us less: they just feared the Russians more.

FEAR was becoming an all-pervading thing in Germany. No matter which way the Germans turned they found the Allies moving in on them. On April 29, the 12th Armored Division, the 20th Armored Division and the 42d Infantry Division of Lt. Gen. Patch's Seventh Army took Munich, birthplace and shrine of the Nazi party. The Fifth Army took Milan and the British Eighth took Venice and from the north of Italy, from the village of Dongo on Lake Como, came word of the death of Mussolini, tried and executed by Italian partisans. The ex-Duce's mistress, Clara Petacci, was executed with him as were 16 other captured Fascists. The bodies of Mussolini and Clara Petacci were brought to Milan in a furniture mover's van and displayed to the people of the town.

Pierre Laval, the "honest trader" who had sold France out to Hitler, fled from Germany to Spain and was interned. The Seventh Army took Dachau, the most infamous of all Nazi concentration camps and one of the oldest. The Ninth Army made its contact with the Russians just north of the First near Wittenberg. YANK Correspondent Sgt. Ecker was still with the Ninth and observed sidelights of this second junction of Allied armies:

IT doesn't take a second look to know the Russians are planning to stick around for a while in Germany. In our area, American flags are few and far between, mostly on military-government offices, but over on the Russian side almost every window of the occupied town buildings flies a red flag instead of the white surrender flags we leave up. There's another more conclusive proof of permanence of Russian intentions; German signposts, left up in our area, have been torn down by Russians and new ones in their language substituted.

Among the many other things that the Russians can do better than the Germans is the fine art of sloganeering. The Germans in many cities have painted a vast number of inspiration mottoes on the walls of the houses and public buildings but none can quite measure up in concise impact to this Soviet slogan lettered in white on red banners flying in the street here: "Death to the Fascist aggressors." For the benefit of the American allies, a special two-language flag was displayed in Wittenberg, scene of a meeting between the Russian and American corps generals. This is the way it read in English: "Long live the great leaders, President Trumen, Marchall Stalin and Premer Churchill." Lots of wiseacres bet Stalin's name came first in the Russian version of the same slogan but they were wrong.

THE Allied flood rolled on. It was a great period for capturing Nazi field marshals like Wilhelm Ritter von Leeb and Wilhelm List, both of whom had been kingpins in the Nazi drives that overthrew Poland and France and both of whom had had less luck in the invasion of Russia. Adm. Nicholas Horthy, Nazi-controlled dictator of Hungary was captured. All three were picked up by the Seventh Army. Lt. Gen. Kurt Dittmar, leading German military commentator, surrendered to the Ninth. And then came the biggest story of all. The German radio announced that Hitler had died in action in Berlin. The Russians, who had by this time freed Berlin of all but street fighting, agreed that Hitler was dead, not as a fighting soldier but as a suicide. They said that Josef Paul Goebbels, his warped little propaganda minister, had also died by his own hand. Tired of too many German tricks, most Allied authorities reserved comment; they would believe Hitler dead when they saw his body. But a dead Hitler made for cheerful talk.

In Paris, Sgt. DeWitt Gilpin, YANK field correspondent, took a sample of public opinion on the subject of Hitler's death:

LT. WILLIAM J. CULLERTON of Chicago, a fighter pilot who was left for dead a few weeks ago after a German *SS* man fired a .35-slug through his stomach, sat in a Paris hotel and talked about the late Adolf Hitler.

"I hope the sonuvabitch was as scared of dying as I was when that *SS* officer let me have it through the stomach," he said. "I thought I'd had it.

"Now they say Hitler is dead. Maybe he is. If he is, I don't believe he died heroically. Mussolini died at least something like a dictator, but somehow I can't figure Hitler dying in action. And I don't think Hitler's death changes anything about Germany. It just might be part of a deal to soften us up so they can stick another knife in the soft spot."

Two Eighth Air Force aerial gunners, who like Cullerton were sweating out a ride back to the States from the same hotel, said that they hadn't believed the news of Hitler's death when they first heard it shortly after the 104th Division liberated them from the Alten Grabow PW Camp.

S/Sgt. Henry J. Smith of Scranton, Pa., said: "I came down near Stutlitz about nine months ago and I just had time to get out of my chute before German civilians started beating me up. One old man of about 60 broke a .22-rifle over me. But when we left Germany all the people were forcing smiles for us. And that old guy would smile too, now. Mussolini is dead, Hitler is dead—but what's the difference? There are lots more."

S/Sgt. William Cupp of Tipton, Iowa, who came down in Belgium and beat his way within 200 yards of the American lines—then near Paris—before the Germans got him, said: "They want to make Hitler a martyr for the German kids. Most of them are pretty much for him as it is."

At the 48th General Hospital, Sgt. Allan Pettit of Verndale, Minn., and the 78th Division, was well enough to be going out on pass. He had been hit twice before on the Roer River, but this time it was only concussion, and now he had a chance to see Paris.

"Why waste words on Hitler," he said. "And how do you know for sure? Anyway he picked a damned good Nazi to take his place. That crazy Doenitz fought us in the last war."

Over in another ward filled with combat men just in from the front, it was the entertainment hour and as a special favor to Cpl. Peter Stupihin —a Red Army man suffering from prison camp malnutrition—a singer rendered "Kalinka." The GIs thought that was fine, and those who felt strong enough called for tunes like "Stardust" and "I'll Be Seeing You."

A red-headed southerner from the 4th Division was feeling good because the doctor had finished dressing the shrapnel wound in his chest, and he had something to say about Hitler and his Germany between songs.

"I wish I was the guy who killed him," he said. "I'd killed him a little slower. Awful slow."

In the Tout Paree Bar some men from the 101st Airborne and the 29th Divisions worked at having a good time with pilots from the Troop Carrier Command. There were Wacs in the party too, but the attention they were getting came mostly from pilots. Some infantrymen were arguing about what their outfits did and where.

A pianist was pounding out what he considered American swing, and it wasn't the place for a name-and-address interview. An infantry captain who'd had a few drinks didn't waste much time on Hitler.

"Yeah, I guess he's dead," he said, "but so are a lot of *good* guys. And you just remember that."

Then the infantrymen went back to arguing about what had happened at Bastogne.

AND in a very different setting, in the PW section of a Third Army post in Bavaria, YANK Correspondent Cpl. Howard Katzander, got a very different slant on what might lie behind Hitler's death from a source a little closer to Berchtesgaden:

THE colonel was out of uniform—regrettably so for an officer of his rank in the Third Army area—but he carried it off well. He was average in height, slim and blond-haired. He carried a crooked cane, and was dressed in green cotton trousers, and a pepper-and-salt sport jacket zippered up the front. He wore grey suede gloves and, as he talked he sat cross-legged, occasionally slapping at one trim brown oxford, composed and nonchalant as if he were back on his father's East Prussia estates in the heart of Germany's Junkerland.

The story he was telling was the story of why

omery on May 3 to surrender
est Germany and Denmark.

On May 7 Col. Gen. Gustav Jodl, German chief of staff, signs formal surrender terms at SHAEF Headquarters in Reims, France.

After the surrender at Reims, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower holds up the pens with which the documents were signed.

the war did not end last July. It was the story of the attempt to assassinate Hitler and he knew all about it. Because this was Lt. Col. Wilhelm Kuebart, a member of the *Wehrmacht* General Staff, and one of the original plotters.

Kuebart was a *Junker* gentleman of the Prussian militarist class with a long military tradition behind him. His wife was the daughter of a *Junker* general. His uncles were *Reichswehr* officers and before them his grandfather and great-grandfathers as far back as his memory went. Only his father had departed from the tradition to embrace a profession as an architect.

In the fall of 1932 Wilhelm Kuebart entered the *Reichswehr* as an officer-candidate. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the fall of 1934.

From then on his rise was rapid and in the best *Junker* tradition. He participated in the Polish campaign in the late summer of 1939 as a first lieutenant and in the summer of 1940 he became a captain and was transferred to the staff of the 18th Panzer Division. In the early spring of 1941 his talents and family background received due recognition and he was sent to the *Kriegsakademie*—the General Staff School—after which he joined Von Leeb's staff in the Central Army Group on the Russian front.

It was there that Kuebart was inoculated with the anti-Hitler virus in its most violent form. Almost the entire staff of this army group was anti-Hitler.

This was not unusual. The *Junker* officer class was probably the most exclusive club in the world. Its members regarded the military as the only career fit for a gentleman and it regarded the *Wehrmacht* as its own private sphere.

Kuebart had taken a pretty dim view of the Nazi regime from the beginning, the way he tells it, and had never joined the National Socialist Democratic Workers Party. Kuebart and his fellow officers felt that their ranks had degenerated under Hitler and they were particularly resentful of Himmler's attempt to spy on the officers and impose *SS* control over them. Hitler's spectacular failures as general and Supreme Commander of the Armies led to open revolt. The disaster at Stalingrad was the last straw.

From that time on the most popular subject of conversation among officers of the old school was the question of how to get rid of Hitler and Himmler. Kuebart had been sponsored for a place on the General Staff by Col. Hansen, Chief of the *Wehrmacht* Intelligence Service, and Hansen was the brains behind the plot against Hitler's life. The *Burgemeister* of Leipzig, Boerdler, was to take political control. Hansen went to Zeitzler, Chief of the General Staff, and persuaded him that immediate action was necessary.

The date for the assassination was set for July 13. The weekly conference between Hitler and his generals was to be held as usual on that day. But, at the last minute, there were two hitches. Himmler was not going to be present and Hitler decided to hold the conference in a flimsy wooden barracks.

The bomb that had been prepared to wipe out Hitler and Himmler was designed for use in Hitler's underground headquarters where heavy concrete walls and the earth itself would confine the force of the blast to the small room.

When the bomb was exploded in the frame building above ground—it had been brought to the conference in a brief case—its force was dissipated. Hitler was injured, but not seriously. The attempt had failed.

It could not be proven definitely that Kuebart had plotted against the Supreme Commander, but it was felt that he had betrayed his trust as an officer of the *Wehrmacht*. Accordingly, a crushing blow was dealt him. He was expelled from the *Wehrmacht* as *"undwirdigkeit,"* unworthy of the honor of wearing the uniform. He was forbidden to reenter the army even as a buck private. He was kept under constant *Gestapo* surveillance, apparently in the hope that his movements would betray others who had taken part in the plot.

Kuebart says that 120 high German officers were hanged as a result of the plot, and 700 others are waiting execution.

When American troops overran the area where Kuebart had been living with his wife and two children since his expulsion from the army, he calmly walked into the CP of B Battery, 551st Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion and told his story. He expected to speak his piece and go home to his wife and kiddies. He had papers to show that he had been expelled from the German Army. He assured his interrogators that his group had been prepared to sue for peace immediately if their plot had succeeded.

But he did not go home to the wife and kiddies. Somehow or other, the Third Army did not feel that his expulsion from the army relieved him of responsibility for the part he had played up to that time. He is now in a PW cage and knows no more than anyone else of what actually happened to Hitler this time.

ADM. KARL DOENITZ was named as Hitler's successor—the new Fuehrer. *It was asserted that Hitler himself had nominated the Grand Admiral of the German Fleet to carry on his job. It was possible, Doenitz was a devout Nazi; he was also the man who had helped perfect wolf-pack submarine warfare. Goering, once head of the Luftwaffe, was no longer a factor in anything except guessing games—he was crazy; he was a suicide; he had escaped abroad. Von Ribbentrop was out as German Foreign Minister and cagey Count Lutz Schwerin von Krosigk was in. Berlin fell on May 2. Field Marshal Arnim von Runstedt had already been added to the list of captured field marshals by the Seventh Army. Also on May 2 it was announced that German forces in Italy and Southern Austria had surrendered at Caserta. Free Czechs started their own revolt and battled Germans in Prague. The Fifth and Seventh Armies met at Vipiteno, Italy. On May 4 all the German forces in Holland, Denmark and Northwest Germany surrendered to Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery.*

By now the allied advance had gathered unstoppable force. On May 5 the First and Nineteenth Armies, comprising German Army Group G, surrendered to Gen. Jacob L. Devers' U. S. Sixth Army Group in Western Austria and Bavaria; the German First and Nineteenth surrendered to the U. S. Seventh and French First; the German Twenty-fourth Army surrendered to the French First. The Germans were preparing to give up Norway.

On Sunday, May 6, at Reims, France, Col. Gen. Gustav Jodl signed a formal surrender for all German armed forces. YANK's *Sgt. Gilpin was at Reims when GIs there got the news:*

THE 201st MP Company, whose members handled the guard details when the Germans came to Reims to surrender, is a celebrity-wise outfit. Gen. Eisenhower knows many of the men by their first names and some of them have dined at Churchill's home. They have been the gun-carrying soldiers on hand during a succession of visits to high headquarters by Nazi bigwigs like Franz von Papen, who was described by one of them as looking like "an old goat in golf knickers."

The MPs said Col. Gen. Jodl looked and acted more like the popular idea of a German militarist than any of the other German officers with him at the surrender meeting. He walked and talked with the arrogance that the *Junkers* have developed through a long series of wars. He didn't seem to drink as much as some of the others and before and after each conference the MP outside his bedroom window could see him examining his face in his mirror. After the last conference session Jodl came back to his room, threw open the windows and looked down at Pfc. Jack H. Arnold of Lancaster, Pa. After peering at Arnold, he inhaled deeply and then twisted and pulled at his face before the mirror.

Adm. Hans von Friedeburg, of all the Germans, seems to have impressed the MPs most as what they called a "character." In the words of Pfc. Joseph Fink, who used to build Burroughs adding machines in Detroit, "The Admiral had enough medals hanging on his chest to decorate a Christmas tree."

Fink rode in the car that took the admiral to the German billets. During the ride a British major riding with them brought Friedeburg up to date on current events. He told him the lights were on again in London and Friedeburg, remembering air raids in Germany, replied in English that he hadn't had a good night's sleep in a month. He went on to explain that he had been bombed out of his headquarters three times.

While he stayed in the billets, Friedeburg consumed great quantities of cigars and liquor, but none of this seemed to make any improvement in his testy disposition. When he saw photographs of German atrocities in a copy of the *Stars and Stripes* during a between-conferences discussion of U. S. Army publications he banged his fist on the table in a temper.

Crowds swarmed down Broadway in New York on VE-night, and bright lights were turned on again.

Hitler's henchman Marshal Goering, captured in Austria, posed in his favorite uniform.

Marshal Keitel, German Commander in Chief, signs ratified surrender terms at Russian headquarters in Berlin.

The house in which the Germans stayed during the conference looked like a shack on the outside and a palace on the inside. There were paintings on the walls and a grandfather clock, inlaid tile in the bathrooms and comfortable double beds in the bedrooms. There was a bit of a fuss over the first meal because someone had forgotten to get the red wine. Pfc. Frederick A. Stones of Pittsburgh, Pa., commented privately, "If I was running this show I'd throw them a can of C rations."

Stones says that his proposed diet had a practical as well as a vindictive side in that it might have helped shorten the negotiations.

Once Pfc. Joyce Bennet, Wac manageress of the German billets, asked two of the GI orderlies to straighten up the beds of the German officers. The GIs complied but bitched. "We're usually assigned to British Air Marshal Tedder," one of them said, "and he straightens up his own bed and so could these guys."

Speaking of the Germans, a little black-haired Wac from Tarentum, Pa., said, "I felt terribly uneasy serving them coffee. Some officer made a crack about my waiting on Germans while my husband was still shooting them. He didn't stop to think that I'd have preferred to have been spilling the hot coffee down their necks."

On the last day before the Germans signed the piece of paper that officially ended what was to have been Adolf Hitler's New World Order, Col. Gen. Jodl and Adm. Friedeburg were watched by the MPs as they walked in the little garden beside their billet. Friedeburg had relaxed a little, but Jodl was just as stiff necked as ever.

Later, when it was all over except the publicity, the MPs went back to their barracks and had a bull session about the war, the Germans and "Ike." They talked most about "Ike."

Sgt. Henry Wheeler of Youngstown, N. Y., said, "The windup was pretty much what we expected. 'Ike' didn't have anything to do with those phonies until they were ready to quit. Then he went in and told them to sign up.

"And what does he do as he comes out of the meeting? He shakes hands with the first GI he comes to."

And that is the way the war in Europe ended for the 201st MPs.

THE news of the surrender was to have been held up for a simultaneous announcement by President Truman, Premier Stalin and Prime Minister Churchill, but, in spite of censorship precautions, it leaked out and set off celebrations in all Allied capitals. YANK reporters in overseas posts from Saipan to Cairo heard the good news as it spread from soldier to soldier, in combat, in camp and on the streets of pass towns:

THE announcement came as an anticlimax to men of the Ninth Army, just as it did to most of the rest of the world. They had been relieved for the last time on the Western Front some days before the signing at Reims and their relief was to them the real end of the war in Europe. Pfc. S. L. Gates, who has a brother in the Marines in the Pacific, figured he'd be heading there soon. Most of the talk was like that—either of home or of possible Pacific duty.

In Paris, where the news had begun as a phoney rumor and then turned true, it was an anticlimax, too. A photographer staged a shot with some French babes kissing some over-happy doughs in front of the Rainbow Corner. "I keep telling everybody that it's over," said an MP at the door of the Red Cross Club who was no longer even checking passes, "but nobody believes me."

Finally, when Paris believed the news, it was just a big-city celebration—crowds and singing and cheers and lots of cognac and girls. People stopped work and airplanes of all the Allied forces buzzed the *Champs Elysees*. Pvt. Ernest Kuhn of Chicago listened to the news come over the radio at the 108th General Hospital. He had just been liberated after 5 months in a Nazi PW camp and he still had some shrapnel in his throat. "I listened to Churchill talk," he said, "and I kept saying to myself, 'I'm still alive. The war is over here and I'm still alive.' I thought of all the guys in the 28th Division Band with me who were dead now. We used to be a pretty good band."

In London there were crowds too, and singing and kissing and cheering. Everybody you spoke to said the news was swell, but they all added a postscript about the Japs. The end of the war in Europe seemed to bring the Pacific war closer than ever to GIs here. Cpl. Robert M. Rhodes of Kittanning, Pa., who works in a base ordnance depot in the U.K., said, "I just can't believe it's over on this side. That is, I can't realize it yet. I figure this VE-day is just one step nearer New York and the Statue of Liberty. I figure it'll take 10 to 12 more months to get rid of the Japs. I'm just going to write home to my wife, 'So far, so good. I'll be seeing you.' "

GI reaction to the surrender was calm in Cairo. There was no singing or dancing in the streets, no great spontaneous demonstration, no fights. T/Sgt. Holis B. Miller of Benedict, Neb., leaning against a staff car parked in front of a downtown hotel, watched the crowds stopping to read the announcement in the extra of the *Stars and Stripes* posted on the hotel wall. "Most of the GIs don't quite know what to make of it," he said. "It doesn't mean much of a change. We won't be getting out of the Army tomorrow or going home." In the Cairo bars, which didn't even enjoy a business boom, men thought mostly of what the celebration might be like in the U. S. "I'll bet they're having a hot time at home tonight," said Cpl. Paul Furgatch of the Bronx and he ordered another drink.

In the Aleutians there wasn't much formal celebrating either. Mostly there were rumors on "How much better are my chances of getting off this island?" Unit commanders banned "boisterous or disorderly demonstrations" and forbade "discharge of small arms," but many outfits arranged the monthly beer ration to coincide with VE-day. Back of all reaction to the news was the thought that the theater might be due to become important again, that it might live up actively to its slogan, "The Northern Highway to Victory."

In Hawaii there was almost complete lack of interest. The men there were too close to the continuing Pacific war to be unduly jubilant. The ones who got the biggest kicks were those who had close friends or relatives in the European Theater. There wasn't even much talk about VE-day among the GIs. And when they did talk they were usually saying, "Now maybe we can wind *this* war up sooner."

Nobody got very excited on Saipan when the news came over the B-29 squadrons' loudspeakers in the morning. It was like the Hawaiian reaction, only stronger. M/Sgt. Wilbur M. Belshaw, a flight engineer from Vesta, Minn., said what was uppermost in GIs' minds: "The Japs thought they could lick the world. Well, now they've got their chance."

THERE wasn't much war left in Europe. Germans in Norway moved toward Sweden for internment. The German heavy cruisers Prinz Eugen *and* Seydlitz *were turned over to the British Navy at Copenhagen. A few die-hard groups like the German Seventh Army in Czechoslovakia made a last stab at organized resistance. The official time set for the laying down of all guns in Europe was 2001 hours Eastern War Time, Tuesday, May 8. After that, what fighting remained was unofficial and sporadic. The Russians, justifiably suspicious after earlier Nazi attempts to sign a separate peace with the two other allies, forced Field Marshal Albert von Kesselring to sign a special ratification of surrender in Berlin. Goering turned up, not crazy or dead, but as a prisoner of the celebrity-collecting Seventh Army. Lights went on again in London; the "brownout" was relaxed in New York.*

VE-day had come. People in America had been waiting for it so long they didn't know whether to believe it and, when they did believe it, they didn't quite know what to make of it:

TO GET an over-all view of VE-day in America, YANK asked civilian newspapermen and staff writers in various parts of the country to send in eye-witness reports. From these OPs the reports were much the same. Dallas was quiet, Des Moines was sober, Seattle was calm, Boston was staid.

In some towns crowds gathered and tried to think of something to do to celebrate. Mostly, they didn't seem able to focus their thoughts. Two weeks of spectacular rumors and even more spectacular events had taken the edge off the official victory over Germany. And the press and

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radio kept saying: "There's still one war to go."

From Portland, Ore., came a report of a conversation between a Broadway street car conductor and a young woman passenger wearing a service star.

"So this is VE-day," the motorman said. "But we'll have to lick the little yellow men before I go on a toot."

The young woman said: "And my husband will have to come home before I go on a toot."

In Cleveland crowds stood on downtown corners and moved aimlessly along streets where hawkers were selling flags, pompoms, lapel buttons and tin horns. The streets were littered with torn papers and long streamers dangled from office windows and hung from trolley wires —all this the evidence of a brief, wild hubbub following President Truman's 8 A.M. radio announcement on May 8 that victory in Europe really had come.

A man in the Cleveland suburb of Parma painted a fireplug red, white and blue; girls in a candy store threw candy kisses to the crowd; Hitler was burned in effigy at Lakeside and East 9th Street; girls danced on the sidewalk; church bells rang; factory whistles blew. But on the whole it was a quiet day, ending with well-attended services in all churches.

Houston's reaction was summed up in one sentence: VE-day came to Houston like Christmas morning to the kid who peeked in the closet the week before and saw his electric train.

New Yorkers milled around the Wall Street district and Times Square, and over a loudspeaker Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia told them to behave themselves. In a bar a man said: "I betcha they act like this only in New York and Chicago and San Francisco. "Back in Vermont, where I come from, I betcha they're acting different. I betcha the people are behaving decent, and going to church and praying and not carrying on."

In Chicago a gray-haired man weaved up to the woman behind the cigar counter in the Stevens Hotel lobby. "Aren't you going to celebrate?" the man asked. "Celebrate what?" the woman said. "My two boys are on Okinawa."

San Francisco took it easy. Schools closed an hour early, the Bartenders Union voluntarily shut the saloons. The Junior Chamber of Commerce sponsored an "On to Tokyo" rally in the Civic Auditorium. The United Nations Conference on International Organization went right ahead working in the Opera House and the Veterans' Memorial Building.

In Atlanta the big Bell bomber plant that turns out B-29s operated full blast. Officials said there was no increase in absenteeism.

Des Moines old-timers noted that it was a lot different from the way it had been 27 years before. On Armistice Day, 1918, rioters had filled downtown streets and overturned automobiles, dancing and singing to celebrate the U. S. Army's first victory in Europe. This time, except for a truckload of boys with musical instruments touring the heart of town, there was no revelry.

St. Louis church leaders held services in Memorial Plaza, Emerson Electric Manufacturing, Scullin Steel, Monsanto Chemical and other plants said full crews showed up. Retail stores closed and so did most bars and taverns.

Rain fell in Baltimore during President Truman's speech and streets were as empty as they usually are when it rains at 9 A.M. In the harbor there were impromptu celebrations aboard Norwegian and British vessels.

In Boston office girls sang "Hi, ho, the Merry-O" in Liberty Square, and workmen tearing down the old New England Mutual Building in Post Office Square tolled the bell in the tower. It was the first time the bell had rung in 2 years.

Minneapolis sounded its central air raid warning siren atop the Northwestern National Bank when President Truman officially proclaimed VE-day. For 17 minutes the pigeons in the Loop area wheeled in a capricious wind. Till mid-day the police and fire department kept extra men on hand in case of celebration trouble, but when it was clear that there wasn't going to be any celebration the extras were sent home. Schools and colleges continued classes, and appointments at the Red Cross blood-donor center were kept.

Los Angeles celebrated by launching a 445-foot Victory ship in the California Shipbuilding yards —the 438th ship the yards have turned out. Churches of all denominations held special services, and public offices, retail stores and banks remained open as usual.

Springfield, Mass., stores barricaded their show windows with American flags to protect them from VE-day crowds, but there weren't any crowds. The Springfield Armory took down the "Help Wanted" sign which had become almost a landmark at State and Federal Streets. Officials said demands for the Garand rifle had fallen and that lay-offs were expected.

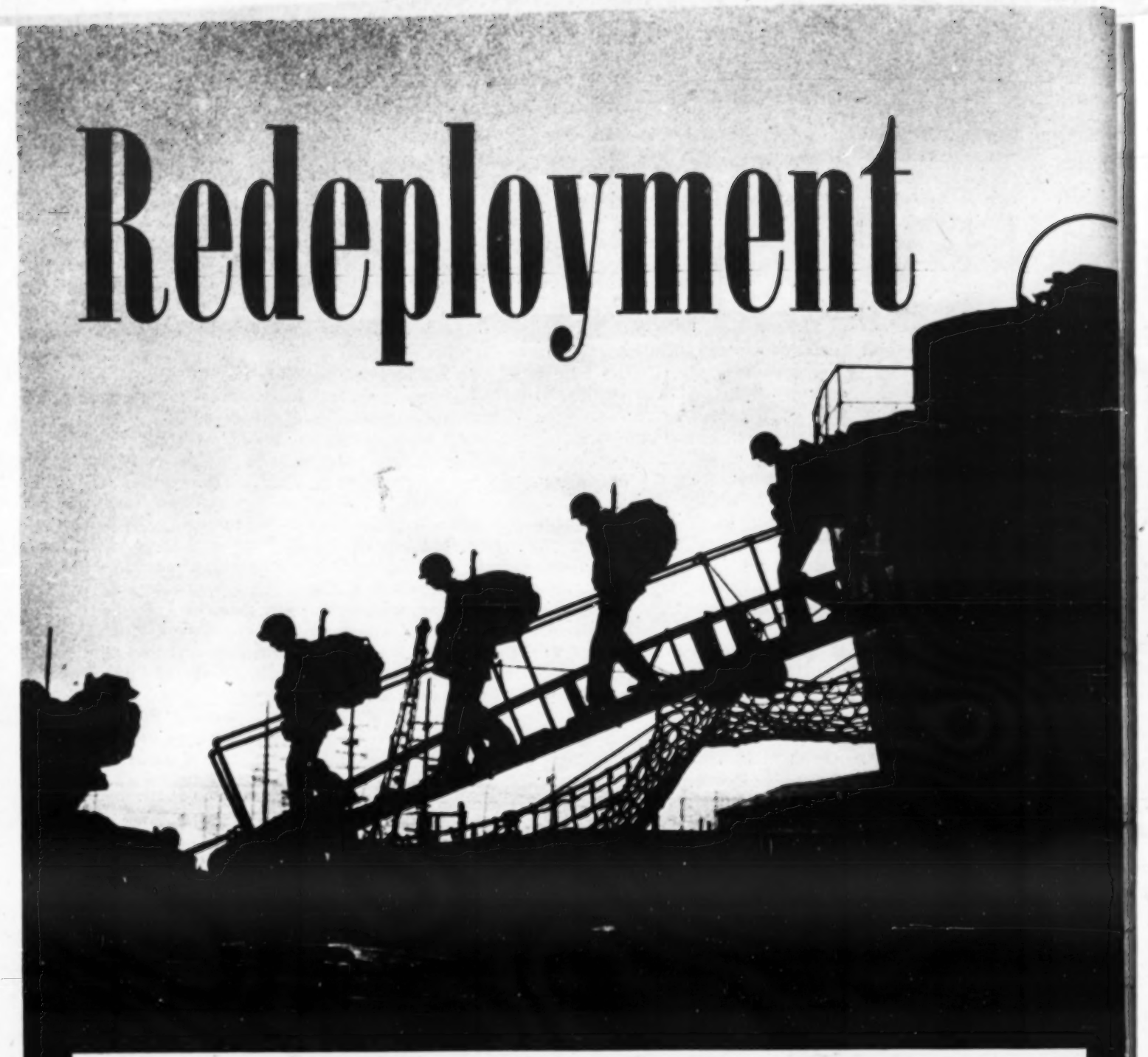
In Thomaston, Conn., an employee of the Seth Thomas clock factory, which has been converted to war production, said: "I don't like to be a fussbudget, but this doesn't mean much to me. When I stop making fuse parts for shells and start making lock parts again, that will be a wonderful day."

Some German prisoners interned at Fort Oglethorpe, Tenn., near Chattanooga, broke down and cried when they heard it was all over. There was no other display of emotion and no disturbance inside the compound. The post commandant, Col. Howard Clark, made a brief talk at a special retreat ceremony. Thirty minutes later he learned that his son, Lt. William A. Clark, had been killed in action on Luzon on April 18.

Flags were still at half-mast for FDR.

ON OKINAWA, GIs and Marines continued to kill Japs and to be killed by them. It was raining when the VE announcement was broadcast over loudspeakers and the artillery and the noise of planes made it hard to understand. Besides, almost everybody was too busy to pay much attention to it.

Redeployment



SOME of our soldiers may now lay down their arms. For a long time the War Department has planned for this moment when the defeat of our European enemies would permit partial demobilization. It has come nearly 5 years since the first draftees were inducted into the Army in the autumn of 1940—nearly three and a half years since the Japanese attacked us at Pearl Harbor. Part of our mission is now completed. All who can be spared will be released.

The plan for release is based on what the men in the service believed should be the basis of discharge. You yourselves have decided who should be chosen. The needs of war have determined how many shall be chosen and when. You may be assured that the demobilization plan does not interfere with the best strategy we can devise to finish the war with Japan in the shortest possible time and then to get everyone home.

If you are among those selected for discharge, you have my sincere congratulations and good wishes for a deserved return to the country you have served and saved. If you are among those who must continue the fight, you can count upon everything you need to finish the job as soon and with as few casualties as possible. The gratitude of the nation is with you all. May God bless you wherever you are.

HENRY L. STIMSON
Secretary of War

By YANK's Washington Bureau

Now that the war in Europe is over, everybody is talking about what the War Department calls its Plan for the Readjustment of Personnel. This is the plan that will decide who will move from Europe and other inactive theaters to the war against Japan, who will stay behind for occupation and police duty and who will come home, either to stay for awhile in the Army in the U. S. or to get a discharge.

The bare outline of the Plan for the Readjustment of Personnel was announced last September and it hasn't changed much since then. It still calls for enlisted men and women who won't be needed in the war with Japan to be discharged on an individual basis rather than by organizations. It still calls for eligibility for discharge to be decided on a point score system, with the points taking in four factors: length of service in the Army, length of service overseas, the number of decorations or bronze service stars and the number of dependent children you have under 18—but you don't get credit for more than three children.

And it still makes everything in the plan heavily dependent on military necessity. In other words nobody in the Army, no matter how many points he has, will get out unless the Army says that he is not necessary.

As a matter of fact, the only enlisted men in the Army right now who are eligible to get discharged without their commanding officers deciding first whether or not they are essential are men who have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor or who are over 42 years old.

The plan still gives no points for age.

Although it has made no fundamental changes in the Plan for the Readjustment of Personnel, the War Department in the past month has thrown a lot more light on some of its details and has revealed some previously secret information on how it is expected to work.

Here are some of the more important facts and figures about the plan that have been revealed:

It has been announced that approximately two million men will be released from the Army during these next 12 months. This two million will include men from the Pacific theaters as well as from Europe. Approximately 1,300,000 of them will be men with high point totals. The rest will be wounded or physically unfit for service or over-age.

Ninety-eight percent of the 1,300,000 men scheduled to be discharged on points during the coming year will have had overseas service.

Seventy-three percent of the 1,300,000 will be men with combat credit—decorations or bronze service stars on their theater ribbons.

Twenty-six percent of 1,300,000 will be fathers. In other words 24 percent of the physically fit fathers who are scheduled to be released from the Army during the next year will also be well credited with overseas and combat points. Only 2 percent of the fathers who will be discharged during the coming 12 months will have had no overseas time on their service record. It is a safe bet that in order to get out they will have to have a very long time in service in the U. S. and the maximum number of three children.

The 1,300,000 will not include many Air Forces men. The Air Force will have its own critical score, the term that the War Department is using to describe that very important figure each man's

THE POINT VALUES AND THE CRITICAL SCORE

POINTS. The Army's plan for the readjustment of enlisted personnel calls for an Adjusted Service Rating Card to be issued to each enlisted man and woman. Point totals will be entered on this card covering each of the following four factors:

1) Service Credit. One point for each month of Army service between Sept. 16, 1940, and May 12, 1945.

2) Overseas Credit. One point for each month served overseas between Sept. 16, 1940, and May 12, 1945.

3) Combat Service. Five points for the first and each additional award of the following, for service performed between Sept. 16, 1940, and May 12, 1945:

a) Distinguished Service Cross, Legion of Merit, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Purple Heart and Bronze Service Stars (battle or campaign participation stars worn on theater ribbon).

b) Credit will also be given to Army enlisted personnel who have been awarded the following decorations by the Navy Department: Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Air Medal and Purple Heart Medal.

c) Credit will also be given for those awards and decorations of a foreign country which may be accepted and worn under War Department regulations in effect when the readjustment regulations are placed in operation.

4) Parenthood Credit. 12 points for each child under 18 years of age born before May 12, 1945, up to a limit of three children.

CRITICAL SCORE. The total of the points earned by the individual enlisted man or woman in the above four categories will be considered a total-point score. The score that the individual must have in order to be eligible for separation from the Army will be known as the Critical Score. The War Department will be unable to announce an official Critical Score until approximately six weeks after the readjustment regulations go in operation. There will be one Critical Score for enlisted men in the Army Service Forces and the Army Ground Forces, another for enlisted men in the Army Air Forces and a third one for enlisted women in the WAC.

Until it computes and announces these official Critical Scores, the War Department has set for the purpose of aiding immediate demobilization a temporary, "interim" Critical Score of 85 points for enlisted men of the Service, Ground and Air Forces and 44 points for enlisted women of the WAC. These interim Critical Scores will be replaced by the official Critical Scores within the next two months.

points will have to equal or beat before he can be considered eligible for discharge. The Air Forces critical score will be higher than the critical score for Ground Forces and Service Forces. The WAC critical score will be low because, of course, not many Wacs stand high in overseas or combat points.

The War Department will be unable to compute an official critical score until it does some mathematics during the next two months with individual Adjusted Service Rating Cards and figures out exactly how many men have how many points. Meantime, to start the demobilization of the 1,300,000 able-bodied men, it has set 85 points as an "interim" or temporary critical score not only for the Ground and Service Forces but for the Air Forces as well. The interim critical score for Wacs has been set at 44.

These interim critical scores for the Ground and Service Forces and WAC are expected to be changed to lower figures before they become official.

Another bit of recent news on the Plan for the Readjustment of Personnel, which went over big in Europe, was announced by Gen. Brehon Somervell, Chief of the Army Service Forces. Gen. Somervell said that "the great majority" of the troops in Europe slated for duty in the Far East would go to the Japanese war by way of the States and get furloughs at home en route.

The Army plans to take 3,100,000 men from Europe within the next year, if all goes well, leaving 400,000 behind as occupation forces. Major Gen. Charles P. Gross of the Transportation Corps says that the removal of soldiers from Europe may be done even faster if we can find some enemy passenger ships that are in good condition. The ATC plans to fly home 50,000 men each month.

Gen. Gross estimates that the U. S. Army will leave Europe at the rate of 280,000 men a month for the first quarter of the coming year, 395,000 a month for the second quarter and 269,000 for the third quarter. The rest will be brought home during the last quarter.

Nobody in the War Department has yet made an estimate about the number of men from these 3,100,000 scheduled to leave Europe who will go on to the Japanese war. That depends on a lot of things we don't know the answers to now, such as the progress of our own Pacific campaigns in the next few months, the help we get from Allies and, most important of all, the amount of punishment Japan will take before she quits.

Here are some other details about the Plan for Readjustment of Personnel that you may have missed the last time you read or heard about it:

The War Department says that its point system requirements for eligibility for discharge will remain standard in every theater of operations and in every inactive theater. In other words, a theater cannot set up its own point system.

The War Department says that it will do its best to see that commanding officers do not abuse the military necessity clause, which enables them to keep an enlisted man in the Army no matter how high his critical score happens to be. Theater commanders have been instructed to establish reviewing authorities to pass on individual cases of enlisted men who are being retained in the service despite the fact that their scores are equal to or higher than the critical score.

THIS reviewing deal, of course, like practically everything else in the Army, involves the old business of going through channels. For example, say you're a first sergeant in an outfit in Europe awaiting redeployment. Your CO happens to be the type that leans heavily on others. He has grown to depend on your special knowledge of his company's routine, a knowledge picked up through several years of handling hundreds of details that the CO was either too busy or indifferent to handle. Now, even though you may have no more specialized ability than any other efficient top-kick, the CO tags you "essential."

Under the War Department's plan, the CO's word is not final; his request for your retention must go to the next highest in command, your battalion or regimental commander, who can do one of two things. He can approve it, in which case it will be bucked to a higher authority, or he can disapprove it, in which case you will be declared "surplus," and eventually brought back to the States in the prescribed way.

In other words, under WD regulations, your CO's request that you be retained in his outfit can be approved by all of the brass in the Army and still not hold until a reviewing authority puts its stamp on it.

The War Department says that the creation of the reviewing authority was designed to accomplish one thing: to protect a "surplus" man from the whims-and-errors of the brass above him. But there is one catch. There is no time limit attached to the channel-bucking routine. Paper work being what it is, it would probably be a good idea for everyone in this spot to keep his optimism at a reasonably controlled level.

THE Ground Forces men will have an easier time than Service Forces men in getting out of the Army during the coming year. The Service Forces include many highly skilled specialists who cannot be replaced easily, and the supply job in the Far East will be tough.

Under the new regulation Wacs are permitted to apply for discharges if they are married to discharged soldiers.

A lot of outfits in Europe, principally service units of the Service Forces and Air Forces, will have to shove off for the Pacific in a hurry. As a matter of fact, several of them are already on their way. Naturally these outfits will be unable to compute their point scores until after they have been redeployed. That means that men in these outfits with high scores won't know how they stand until they get settled in their new bases. After they get to their new bases, they will have to wait for qualified replacements.

To take care of such cases, the War Department has authorized these outfits to carry a 10 percent overstrength in their T/Os. The overstrength will consist of low-score men who will be trained to replace high-score men on the spot.

The War Department points out, however, that this policy of allowing outfits to carry along replacements as overstrength doesn't necessarily mean that every high-score man in such outfits will be able to get out of the Army fast. There will still be high-score men who may not be replaced until the war with Japan is over.

Here's what is slated to happen to an enlisted man in Europe who has a point total higher than the critical score, who is tagged as not necessary in his own outfit and is therefore declared "surplus." He is transferred to another outfit which is composed of surplus men from other units. This outfit of surplus men will be shipped back to the States directly when and as shipping facilities are available.

In the States, he will be screened to decide whether he will be reassigned to another outfit or discharged. If he is to be discharged, he is sent to a separation center. If he is to be reassigned, he is sent to a Personnel Reception Station near his home. There he draws pay and whatever clothing he needs and gets a furlough. After the furlough he returns to the Personnel Center where he is either sent to a special training combat unit or a station complement outfit.

If a high-score man is declared surplus by his outfit but wants to remain with it just the same, he can do so. But he can't change his mind a few months later and get himself declared surplus again. Once he turns down the chance of becoming surplus, he turns down all chances of getting out of the Army on points until after the Jap war.

Furthermore he has no guarantee that he will be kept in his outfit until the war is over. He stands just as much risk as anybody else of being reassigned somewhere else. For instance, a man may be in an outfit with a soft job that he likes and that he would like to keep for a few more years. If he turns down a chance to become a surplus, he may also get reassigned and lose the job within a few months.

Enlisted men in the States will be screened at the base or post to which they are assigned to determine whether or not they are surplus. If they have been overseas and in combat and have high scores, they'll stand as good a chance of getting out as men who are now overseas.

In active theaters like those in Pacific and in China, Burma and India, the plan for returning surplus men won't work in such a wholesale fashion as it will in Europe during the next year. In active theaters there will be no breaking up of whole units. High-score men in the Far East and the Pacific will not be returned until a qualified replacement is available for their job.

The War Department says that officers will have a tougher time than enlisted men in getting released from the service because of their specialized training. They, too, will fill out Adjusted Service Rating Cards and will have point scores. Their point scores will be a secondary consideration, however. The real factor that will decide whether or not they will get out of the Army is military necessity. Officers with long overseas and combat service will get special breaks.

Enlisted men who are declared surplus may have to sweat out long delays before they get back to the States. First of all there will be plenty of slow paper work involved in transferring them to units composed of surplus men. After their transfer, they will have to wait again before the unit is filled with other surplus men.

Then there will be the shipping problem. They will take second place in shipping priority behind men who are going to the Pacific. The equipment in Europe will have to be gathered up and shipped ahead of them and they will have to await the building of special staging areas.

With the cutting down of the Army and the readjustment of its personnel, all physically fit GIs today in the service find themselves in one of four categories:

1) Those who will be retained in their present commands. This includes men on active duty in active theaters, men in troops in inactive theaters slated for occupation duty and men in the States permanently assigned or in training.

2) Those overseas who will be transferred to another theater.

3) Those in the States about to go overseas.

4) Those men overseas and in the States who will be declared surplus and will be screened to decide whether they are essential or eligible to get an honorable discharge.

ADJUSTED SERVICE RATING

LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—INITIAL			SOLDIER'S VERIFICATION
ARMY SERIAL NO.	ARM OR SERVICE		
ORGANIZATION			
MOS TITLE			
SSN	DATE		
TYPE OF CREDIT	NUMBER	MULTIPLY BY	CREDITS
1. SERVICE CREDIT (Number of months in Army since September 16, 1940)			
2. OVERSEAS CREDIT (Number of months abroad overseas)			
3. COMBAT CREDIT (Number of Decorations and Bronze Service Stars)			
4. PARENTHOOD CREDIT (Number of children under 18 years old)			
TOTAL CREDITS			
CERTIFIED BY (Signature)			
FOR INSTRUCTIONS SEE AR 1-1			

WD AGO FORM 1 FEB 1945 163

This form supersedes WD AGO Form 163, 29 August 1944, which may be used until existing stocks are exhausted.

Here's the official score card.

YANK

THE ARMY WEEKLY

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FADE-OUT

This Week's Cover

IN the weeks before VE-day Hitler's armies shrank down to nothing. Like his own country, the German soldier on the cover was running toward defeat and fading out of the picture. And Japan, now the subject of our undivided attention, come sharply into focus.

PHOTO CREDITS. Cover—Signal Corps. 2 through 13—YANK staff, Signal Corps, Army Air Forces, U. S. Navy, Coast Guard, Acme, INP, PA, OWI. 15—Pfc. Pat Coffey. 18—Left, Sgt. Reg Kenny; others, PA. 17 & 19—PA. 20—Signal Corps.

DON'T YOU KNOW THERE'S A WAR OVER?

THE American Army has won another one of its wars. That war smashed one of the greatest military machines in history and saved our country from one of the most dangerous threats its freedom has faced. According to the book the winning of such a big and important war should have brought us a deep feeling of satisfaction and pride and peace. But this war did not end according to the book.

The book does not call for an army to turn away from the successful ending of one war and to find, instead of a farewell pat on the back and mustering-out pay, another war waiting to be finished. The GIs who did the fighting against the Germans were not exactly overwhelmed with satisfaction and pride and peace when they heard the big news of Victory in Europe. They felt a great relief because the danger of getting killed that had been hanging over them since they had landed on the continent was no longer close. Then they started sweating out the Pacific. Nor did most of the GIs fighting the Japs get much satisfaction or pride or peace out of their Army's defeat of Germany. They were too busy to give it a great deal of thought.

Maybe it is good for us to feel that way right now. Maybe this is no time to be throwing out our chests and telling ourselves that we did all right in Europe. Perhaps we should be thinking of what lies ahead in Asia and nothing else.

Maybe, on the other hand, it wouldn't do us any harm to stop for a moment, no matter what part of the world we are in and no matter what part of the present war concerns us most, and look back of what our Army did to the Germans and the Italians during the past three years.

After Pearl Harbor, it was agreed that our best bet was to help the Russians and the British win the European war first. In the summer and early fall of 1942, they stopped the German advance at Stalingrad and El Alamein, the two turning points of the war, and in order to push the enemy back into Berlin they needed everything we could give them. So we sent the bulk of our air and ground forces to the Mediterranean and Western Fronts. The war in Europe became the first big test of the fighting ability of the American soldier and the tactical ability of his commanding officers in modern warfare.

We went up for that test with all the odds against us and very little in our favor. Our new civilian army was facing the most highly trained and efficient soldiers the world had ever known. In preparing for the war, they were years ahead of us.

There were those who also believed that the American Army was surpassed by the German Army in the fundamental things that are more necessary in the winning of a war than training or tactics or weapons. They said that our officers and enlisted men were amateur soldiers at heart. They said that our soft and free democratic way of life would not stand up against the cold regimentation of Fascism when it came to a showdown. They said we did not have the will to fight, the guts to take it and the ruthlessness to hand it out.

That's how it was when we went to Europe in 1942.

But the American Army, so far behind the German Army in experience and knowledge, caught up to it fast and in three years wiped off the best that it had to offer, first in North Africa, in Sicily and then on the Continent.

Our Allied command, supposedly no match for the brains of the renowned German General Staff, baffled them time and again. There was the depth of the invasion bombardment which kept their reinforcements away from the Normandy beaches; the break-through at Saint Lo; the unbelievable shift of the Third Army from the Saar that stopped the Ardennes counteroffensive; the battle of wits along the Rhine that led to the greatest double enveloping movement in military history and the trapping of 317,000 Germans in the Ruhr pocket.

And the American officers and men, despite the softness of their previously unregimented life, managed in some outfits to stand as much as 500 days in the line without displaying any sign of democratic weakness. They crossed the Rapido River in Italy five times without losing their will to fight. They proved at Kasserine, Hill 609, Salerno, Anzio, Omaha Beach, Aachen, Huertgen, Bastogne and many other places that they could take it and dish it out.

Maybe some of us don't know there's a war over. In that war the American Army, combined with the Russian Army, the British Army and the other United Nations forces, played a major role in giving the greatest German Army in history a terrific beating. That makes the American Army today one of the most powerful military machines of all time.

And maybe it isn't considered the proper thing to say from a morale viewpoint right now but we would be glad to put any amount of money on it against Japan.

"All right, men. You've had your 10-minute break. Now start policing up the area."

PFC. Tom Flannery

NEXT TO GO